

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, December 6, 2004

PUBLIC INVITED TO MPDC'S 5TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Every day of the year, Metropolitan Police officers, civilian employees and our partners in the community do amazing things to help make DC's neighborhoods safer. And they do these things with little expectation of ever being recognized or applauded. For most of these heroes, it's just their jobs. But on the evening of December 14, 2004, the MPDC and the city will have a chance to give these people some of the recognition – and the fanfare – that they deserve. The Department 5th Annual Awards Ceremony will take place, beginning at 6 pm in DAR Constitution Hall, 18th and D Streets, NW. Members of the public are invited to attend this free event and show their support for the people who make community policing a reality in DC. Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Chief Ramsey and other DC leaders will present a series of awards, including the Medal of Valor, for heroism, and the Lifesaving Medal. The Department's Blue Badge Medal will be presented posthumously to the families of two MPDC members killed in the line of duty in the past year: Sgt. John Ashley and Sgt. Clifton Rife II. The MPDC's Officer of the Year, Detective of the Year and civilian Employee of the Year will also be honored. Other awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, for outstanding contributions, and the Achievement Medal, for individual acts of skill or bravery. In addition, the Chief of Police Special Award will be presented to community members who have helped to enhance neighborhood safety, and the Award of Merit will be given to other organizations or individuals who have worked closely with the MPDC to fight crime.

- ① More information about the Awards Ceremony is available at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2974>
- ① For information about other awards involving the MPDC, including previous recipients at the annual awards ceremonies, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/heroes.shtm>

MAYOR SIGNS COMPREHENSIVE JUVENILE JUSTICE LAW, INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OFFENDERS AND PARENTS

Mayor Anthony A. Williams this past week signed the Omnibus Juvenile Justice Act of 2004, legislation that seeks to ensure the fair treatment of juveniles in the justice system, to hold offenders accountable for their actions, to strengthen family and parental involvement, and to protect the safety of the community. Among other provisions, the new law establishes a constitutional method for determining the competency of a juvenile and providing for the juvenile's examination and treatment before proceeding further. The law also protects public safety by allowing the DC Attorney General, social service agencies, DC Public Schools, the MPDC and other law enforcement agencies to share certain confidential juvenile records. It further ensures that the most violent offenders can be diverted to the adult criminal system by requiring the courts to conduct hearings and make determinations regarding adult transfers in a timely manner. The new law sends a strong message of accountability to juvenile offenders by requiring judges to make determinations regarding a juvenile's need for care or rehabilitation before being able to dismiss any juvenile delinquency case. For juveniles adjudicated delinquent and committed to the juvenile justice system, the measure requires that individualized treatment plans be developed by Youth Services Administration in a timely manner. Finally, the law holds parents accountable for neglecting the care of a repeat child offender, participating in a child's rehabilitation, and paying restitution as required.

- ① Read the full news release at:
<http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=649&mon=200411>
- ① The MPDC's Office of Youth Violence Prevention works with other government agencies and community-based organizations to assist youth and young adults whose lives have been negatively affected by crime, drugs and violence. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/yvp_main.shtm
- ① Another MPDC initiative – the Youth Problem-Solving Program – works to enlist young people in the community policing process. Learn more at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/ypsp.shtm>

CRIME IN DC DECLINES AGAIN IN NOVEMBER; DOWN 12 PERCENT FOR THE YEAR

With one month to go in 2004, the level of reported crime in DC continues to decline, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. For the month of November 2004, serious crime decreased by just over 10 percent citywide, when compared with the same month of 2003. All of the violent crime categories declined during November, as did the property crimes of stolen auto and theft from autos. However, burglaries rose last month, and non-vehicular theft and arson offenses were essentially unchanged. Five of the seven police districts recorded crime reductions during November; the Third and Fifth districts reported slight increases. Preliminary data through the first 11 months of 2004 show that crime in DC is down more than 11 percent when compared with the time period of 2003. Reductions have been achieved in all major crime categories, including a 19 percent drop in homicides this year. All seven police districts have also recorded drops in crime through the first 11 months of the year.

HELPING SENIORS ENJOY A HAPPY — AND SAFE — HOLIDAY SEASON

During the holiday season, everyone needs to be on the lookout for thieves, burglars, scam artists and other criminals who prey on individuals' generosity or inattentiveness. But senior citizens, in particular, need to be aware that these "holiday" criminals may be targeting them as victims. Officers in the Fifth District — and across the city — are trying to prevent that from happening this year. Recently in 5D, Officer J. Foust Diggs spoke to a gathering of more than 60 seniors at the Petersburg Senior High Rise Center, about protecting themselves from popular holiday scams. Senior residents at the center listened and learned about safety tips to avoid telephone scams, car theft, robbery and burglary. Officer Diggs stressed the importance of leaving the senior center in groups to handle everyday business. He also emphasized the importance of knowing who they are speaking with, when they receive calls about sending money or giving personal information. Officer Diggs advised residents to ask for a name and a telephone number from solicitors asking for money, and to be very careful about sending money to people they did not know.

NEWS & NOTES

New Internal Affairs Head. Chief Ramsey this week promoted Matthew Klein to Inspector in charge of the Office of Internal Affairs, within the MPDC's Office of Professional Responsibility. A 15-year veteran of the MPDC, Klein most recently served as Captain in charge of the Civil Rights and Force Investigations Division. At Internal Affairs, he replaces Inspector Stanly Wigenton, who is retiring this month after 27 years with the MPDC. Internal Affairs investigates complaints by citizens against police officers and other MPDC members.

COPS Holiday Events. The DC Chapter of COPS — Concerns of Police Survivors — is holding a number of holiday events, including the annual lighting of the COPS Christmas tree in front of MPDC Headquarters, on Monday, December 6, at 6 pm. Details on these events are at: <http://www.dc-cops.org/>

Get Ready for Snow. While the weather may be unseasonably warm, the DC government is busy gearing up for winter weather. The District Department of Transportation is distributing its annual snow brochure in the December 5 Washington Post and via mail to residents who don't subscribe to the paper. Additional snow safety information, including a map of designated Snow Emergency Routes, can be found on the DDOT website: <http://www.ddot.dc.gov>

① Preliminary crime statistics for all seven police districts and the city as a whole can be viewed at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtm

① With the slight increase in burglaries last month, the MPDC encourages homeowners and renters to take some common-sense precautions to help safeguard their homes and property. Details at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm>

① For more information on this recent safety presentation, go to: http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/5th/ss_5Dseniors_1104.shtm

① Holiday safety tips — for people of all ages — are available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/winter.shtm>

① The Office of the DC Attorney General has issued some helpful safety tips about shopping online this year. Details are on the AG's website: <http://www.oag.dc.gov>

① Information about other safety and wellness services for DC senior citizens can be found on the Office on Aging website: <http://dcoa.dc.gov/dcoa/site/default.asp>

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 12/3/04

- ◆ 2004: 183
- ◆ 2003: 227
- ◆ % Change: -19.4%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 56.8% (104 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 11/27/04

- ◆ Total: 687
- ◆ Drugs: 112
- ◆ Weapons: 15
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 18
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 15

Juvenile Activity week end. 11/27/04

- ◆ Arrests: 52
- ◆ Curfew Violators: 25
- ◆ Truants: 24

Firearm Recoveries as of 11/30/04

- ◆ November: 192
- ◆ 2004 Total: 1,871

Traffic Fatalities as of 12/3/04

- ◆ 2004: 43
- ◆ 2003: 63
- ◆ % Change: -31.7%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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